## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial No. 09/896,983

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Title: AGGLOMERATION CONTROL USING EARLY TRANSITION METAL ALLOYS

## REMARKS

Claims 1-36 and 51-90 are withdrawn as directed to non-elected species. Claims 91-144 were previously canceled.

Claims 145-154 are added herein. Applicant contends that claims 145-154 comport with the definition of the elected species XII (first occurrence) and are thus properly presented for examination. Claims 37-50 and 145-154 are now pending.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives at direct dial (612) 312-2204, if there are any questions regarding this Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 26 Nov 03

Thomas W. Leffer

Reg. No. 40,697

Attorneys for Applicant Leffert Jay & Polglaze, P.A. P.O. Box 581009 Minneapolis, MN 55458-1009

telephone: (612) 312-2200 facsimile: (612) 312-2250